

NEWS RELEASE

*OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS*

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For Immediate Release

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Edward E. McNally, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois, announced today that on November 18, 2005, **MARRIO LASHON COLLINS**, age 30 of Mt. Vernon, Illinois, was sentenced in the United States District Court in Benton, Illinois. COLLINS was sentenced to 87 months imprisonment, was fined \$200, and was placed on 3 years supervised release.

COLLINS had previously pleaded guilty to possession of multiple firearms by a felon.

The investigation in this case was a cooperative effort between the Joint Narcotics Unit of the Mt. Vernon Police Department and the Jefferson County Sheriff's Department, the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms, and other federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies pursuant to their participation in the Project Safe Neighborhoods Initiative. In addition, the Jefferson County States Attorney's Office assisted throughout the investigation.

Project Safe Neighborhoods is a joint and cooperative effort of the United States Attorney's Office, the Jefferson County State's Attorney's Office, the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms, and other law enforcement agencies directed at removing guns and drugs from our communities.

The case is being handled by Assistant United States Attorney George Norwood.